

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FORT L 01503 101203Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 100950Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6970

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L FORT LAMY 1503

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CD

SUBJ: GOC DENIALS OF COMPLICITY IN DR. BONO'S ASSASSINATION

1. SUMMARY: WHEN DR. BONO WAS ASSASSINATED IN PARIS ON AUG 26, CRITICS OF THE TOMBALBAYE REGIME WERE QUICK TO IMPLICATE THE CHADIAN PRESIDENT AND THE GOC WAS EQUALLY QUICK TO DENY THE ACCUSATIONS AND TO DENOUNCE THE DENOUNCERS. IN OUR VIEW THE ASSASSINATION DOES NOT SEEM TO BE IN THE TOMBALBAYE STYLE AND BECAUSE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES WE DON'T THINK HE HAD A HAND IN IT. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 FORT L 01503 101203Z

2. DR. OUTEL BONO, ASSASSINATED AUGUST 26 IN PARIS BY AN

UNKNOWN WHITE ASSAILANT, WAS A CHADIAN POLITICAL LIGHTWEIGHT, WHO APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY BY EXPATRIATE CHADIANS ASSOCIATED WITH FROLINAT AND BY THE FRENCH PRESS THAN BY THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT. DR. BONO, WHO WAS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, LEFT CHAD IN MID-1972 WHILE STILL OCCUPYING THAT POSITION AND CONTINUED FOR SOME TIME TO RECEIVE HIS SALARY WHILE ABSENT, EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF HIS WHEREABOUTS. HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE LATER ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY TO JOIN HIM. IN PARIS HE BEGAN ORGANIZING A "THIRD FORCE" WHICH WOULD BE NEITHER TOMBALBAYE'S NOR ABBA SIDDICK'S, AND HE PROCEEDED TO OPEN CAMPAIGNS ON BOTH FRONTS. FROLINAT SEEMS TO HAVE WON THE TUG-OF-WAR FOR SYMPATHIES OF CHADIAN STUDENTS IN PARIS AND BONO'S RECENT STRENGTH APPEARED TO RESIDE LARGELY IN THE QUALITY OF HIS PROSE, HOWEVER LIMITED HIS READERSHIP MAY HAVE BEEN.

3. AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, CRITICS OF TOMBALBAYE LOST LITTLE TIME IN CONCLUDING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ENGINEERED IT. THE FRENCH PRESS TALKED ABOUT A NEW BEN BARKA AFFAIR POINTING OUT BONO'S RECENT DEFECTION FROM THE TOMBALBAYE REGIME BUT FOR THE MOST PART UNDERSTATING BONO'S RIVALRY WITH FROLINAT. RADIO CHAD HAS BEEN HEAVY WITH OFFICIAL EDITORIALS, POINTING OUT THE INCONSISTENCIES OF THESE CHARGES IN THE LIGHT OF GOC EXPRESSIONS OF REVULSION AT THE ACT AND OF SYMPATHY WITH THE FAMILY, RECOUNTING THE FACTUAL HISTORY OF DR. BONO'S ASSOCIATION AND DISASSOCIATION WITH TOMBALBAYE AND STRESSING THE VICIOUS NATURE OF FROLINAT. PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE, THROUGH THE CHADIAN NEWS SERVICE, LAYS THIS VIOLENCE AT FROLINAT'S DOOR AND STRONGLY DENOUNCES THOSE WHO WOULD ATTRIBUTE SUCH AN ACT TO HIM AND HIS GOVERNMENT. CHAD'S NEW POLITICAL WEEKLY, "CANARD DECHAINE", CARRIED, LONG, SYMPATHETIC MEMOIRE WRITTEN BY PIERRE DJIME, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT AND ONE OF CHAD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL AND PRESTIGIOUS FIGURES. HIS EULOGY BEGAN WITH STUDENT DAYS IN BORDEAUX AND EXTENDED THROUGH THEIR FINAL ASSOCIATION. NOWHERE, IN FACT, HAS THERE BEEN THE SLIGHTEST EXPRESSION OF GOC SATISFACTION OR SELF-CONGRATULATION WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT.

4. WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT GOC'S DENIALS. IN 15 YEARS OF POWER, TOMBALBAYE SEEMS TO HAVE ESTABLISHED VERY DISTINCT
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PAGE 03 FORT L 01503 101203Z

LIMITS TO HIS AREA OF ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL ACTION. THESE DO INCLUDE INTRIGUE, DECEPTION, ARRESTS--SOMETIMES REPEATED ARRESTS--AND THERE HAVE BEEN TWO OR THREE FIGURES WHO DIED AT THE HEIGHT OF THEIR OPPOSITION TO TOMBALBAYE, ESPECIALLY IN THE TURBULENT EARLY YEARS OF CHADIAN INDEPENDENCE. HOWEVER, NOT EVEN CRITICAL FRENCH SOURCES ARE SURE THAT TOMBALBAYE HAS DELIBERATELY BROUGHT ABOUT THE DEATH OF AN OPPONENT. HE HAS, IN FACT, PROBABLY BEEN QUITE CONSIDERATE IN

HIS TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, ONE EVIDENCE BEING THE CONTINUED
LOYALTY OF SEVERAL OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN RESTOGED FROM PRISON
TO HIGH POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT. RANCOR AND HATRED DO NOT
SEEM TO RUN VERY DEEP. IN SHORT, BONO'S ASSASSINATION DOES NOT
SEEM TO FIT THE TOMBALBAYE STYLE AND WE INTEND TO AWAIT THE
RESULTS OF THE OFFICIAL FRENCH INVESTIGATION BEFORE CONCLUDING
THAT HE HAD A PART IN IT.
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